THORNBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the Medical Officer of Health

for 1940

STAFF:

Medical Officer of Health:-

J. H. KITSON, M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector & Surveyor:-

R. HUNTINGTON, A.R.S.I.,

Assistant Sanitary Inspector:-

L. J. M. Prosser, [illegible] D.B., M.R.S.I.

Housing Surveyor's Assistant:-

A.F.Young.

Clerk:-

J. T. Ovens.

During the year the staff devoted a considerable amount of time to the surveying and erection of air raid shelters in that part of the district which adjoins the City of Bristol. It is estimated that 7,440 inspections were made in connection with this work for the period under review and the work is still proceeding.

The air raid shelter protection has consisted of:-

725 Anderson steel shelters (of which 525 were concreted)
24 Communal shelters
33 Individual brick surface shelters
20 Baffle Walls.

At the commencement of this work in May 1940 all the Sanitary Inspector's staff was engaged but recently Mr. Prosser has devoted whole-time to the provision of air raid protection. This work is nearing completion at Patchway and is being extended to other parts of the district.

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (acres)	61,300
Population (Census 1931)...	19,649
Population (Registrar General's Estimate)	23,330
Number of inhabited houses (Census 1931)	5,032
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1940) (250 houses in the Patchway district became uninhabited towards the end of the year.)	6,156
Rateable Value	£91,367
Sum represented by a penny rate	£400

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the year.

	Total	Male	Female
Live Births -			
Legitimate	378	194	184
Illegitimate	6	3	3
Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population = 16.5			
Still Births -			
Legitimate	14	9	5
Illegitimate	0	0	0
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births = 35.7			
Deaths	340	178	162
Comparability Factor = 1.00			
Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population = 14.6			
Number of Women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth:			
Puerperal sepsis	0		
Other puerperal causes.. ...	0		
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births - Nil.			
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age. (Legitimate)	20	13	7
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age.. (Illegitimate)	0	0	0
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:			
All infants per 1,000 live births ...	52		
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	53		
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	0		
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	27		
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ...	1		
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)..	0		
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ...	1		

Table of Vital Statistics for the Years 1931 to 1940

Year	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Deaths		Births		Deaths under 1 year of age.	
		Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
1931	19,480	249	12.8	328	16.8	12	36
1932	19,630	236	12.1	300	15.3	13	43
1933	19,620	242	12.8	270	13.7	12	44
1934	19,700	226	11.4	293	14.8	9	30
1935	18,160	230	12.6	282	15.4	12	42
1936	18,370	251	13.6	274	14.9	7	25
1937	20,110	251	12.4	266	13.2	15	56
1938	19,480	241	10.5	344	17.7	16	47
1939	21,030	249	10.1	373	18.2	23	61.
1940	23,330	340	14.6	384	16.5	20	52

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Death-rates, and Case-rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1940.

(England and Wales, London, 126 Great Towns and 148 smaller Towns)

	Thornbury	England and Wales	126 Great Towns	148 Smaller Towns.	London County.
	Rates per 1,000 Population				
BIRTHS:					
Live	16.5	14.6	16.0	15.7	13.7
Still	0.60	0.55	0.64	0.55	0.44
DEATHS:					
All Causes	14.6	14.3	15.8	12.8	17.8
Typhoid and Paratyphoid fevers	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	0.04	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01
ScarletFever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.00
Diphtheria	0.00	0.06	0.07	0.05	0.01
Influenza	0.73	0.32	0.29	0.30	0.18
NOTIFICATIONS:					
Cerebrospinal Fever	0.81	0.32	0.33	0.29	0.28
Smallpox	0.00	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	1.20	1.63	1.53	1.57	0.82
Diphtheria	0.73	1.16	1.29	1.21	0.61
Enteric Fever	0.04	0.07	0.06	0.10	0.06
Erysipelas	0.21	0.33	0.36	0.30	0.35
Pneumonia	1.24	1.20	1.37	1.00	0.87
Measles	14.14	10.24	9.23	9.99	1.78
Whooping Cough	1.29	1.34	1.29	1.35	0.22
	Rates per 1,000 Live Births				
Deaths under 1 year of age	52	55	61	54	50
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age	2.6	4.6	5.9	4.4	5.8

Causes of Death in 1940

Disease	Male	Female
1. Typhoid & Paratyphoid Fevers	0	0
2. Cerebro-spinal fever	3	0
3. Scarlet fever	0	0
4. Whooping Cough	0	0
5. Diphtheria	0	0
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory system	5	8
7. Other forms of tuberculosis	3	1
8. Syphilitic Diseases	0	0
9. Influenza	11	6
10. Measles	1	0
11. Ac. folio-myel: and folio-enceph	0	0
12. Ac. inf. enceph	1	0
13. Cancer of b. cav: and oesoph(M) uterus(F)	0	1
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum	1	6
15. Cancer of breast	0	2
16. Cancer of other sites	11	7
17. Diabetes	0	2
18. Intracranial vascular lesions	17	13
19. Heart disease	37	51
20. Other diseases of circ: system.	5	2
21. Bronchitis	15	7
22. Pneumonia	10	5
23. Other respiratory diseases	0	3
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	1	1
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years	1	0
26. Appendicitis	1	0
27. Other digestive diseases	3	6
28. Nephritis	5	5
29. Puer: and post-abort: sepsis	0	0
30. Other maternal causes	0	0
31. Premature birth	4	1
32. Con: mal: birth inj: infant dis:	3	5
33. Suicide	4	2
34. Road traffic acc:	5	3
35. Other violent causes	14	13
36. All other causes	17	13.
TOTALS	178	162.

SECTION B GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR AREA.

No changes have been made in the services provided in the area, under the following heads:-

(a) Laboratory facilities.
(b) Ambulance facilities.
(c) Nursing in the home.
(d) Treatment Centres and Clinics.
(e) Hospitals. Public and Voluntary.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

(a) Particulars of new sources of Public Supply..... none.

(b) Particulars of extension of existing water mains:-

Further extension of existing main for new Council houses at Woodhouse Down, Almondsbury. There have also been various extensions at Patchway to supply new houses on a Housing Estate.

(c) Measures taken for discovery of sources of contamination:-

Nine samples were taken and submitted to bacteriological examination. These were obtained from 7 sources, all of which were reported as unsatisfactory.

Action taken:-

In one case the supply was a rain water tank, which was remedied by cleaning out.
In 5 cases the source was wells, 2 of which were improved by cleaning out and remedying defective drains, and another by providing a rain-water tank and filter.
Two others were overcome by providing water from an alternative source.
The source of another was from a pond, and the use of water for trade purposes was discontinued.

(d) The water supply is unsatisfactory in quantity in the Northern part of the district (Berkeley, Hinton, Hamfallow, Alkington, Charfield and Stone), and at Aust, Elberton, and Littleton in the South.

Drainage and Sewerage

(a) Particulars of new works commenced during the year:-

The Almondsbury Sewerage Scheme was commenced on 17th June, 1940.

Report on work done for the period ending 31st December, 1940

Contractors - Mr. Maberley Parker.
Amount of Contract - £10,748. 7. 4.

Sewers laid. 200 lineal yards of 15" pipes, 150 lineal yards of 12" pipes and 175 lineal yards of 9" pipes have been laid, totalling 2,525 lineal yards or 39% of the whole length of main sewers.

Sewers delivered.

All the 15" concrete pipes, 250 lineal yards of 12" pipes and 350 lineal yards of 9" pipes have been delivered on site.

Manholes. 30 Manholes have been completed.

Labour. The average number of men employed has been 27.

Weather. Some 6½ hours' work has been lost through Air Raid Warnings, a few hours by bad weather, and two days were allotted for Christmas holidays.

General. The Gypsy Patch Lane section has been joined up and is in use, and pipelaying is now proceeding northward in the neighbourhood of Carlton Lodge and Stoke Lodge.

Position as on 13th September 1941.

Sewers laid. The whole of the main sewers have been laid being a total length of 6,688½ lin. yards.
Manholes. All the 90 Manholes have been completed.
Ventilating Shafts. Three out of twelve shafts have been fixed.
Penstocks. Three out of nine Flushing Penstocks have been fixed.
Labour. The average number of men employed has been 14.
Progress. All the main. sewers have been completed; the Council's houses have been connected up, and all that remains to be done is the fixing of the Ventilating Shafts and Penstocks, and the general restoration of disturbed surfaces, hedges and fences, and the final reinstatement of roads.
A Statement of the measured work executed by the Contractor has been made out, with a deduction for such items as are not yet fully completed.

(b)
Particulars of parishes where there is need for:-

(1) A sewerage system: - Charfield and Hinton

(2) Improvements in existing sewerage: - Almondsbury and Olveston.

Rivers and Streams

Any action taken to check the pollution of rivers and streams:-

The periodical inspection of all temporary disposal works.

Closet Accommodation.

(a) Number of earth closets, pail closets or improved privies constructed 4

(b) Number of replacements of Earth Closets, etc., by W.C's. 1

Public Cleansing.

Refuse tips reduced from 10 in number to 4.
Salvage of refuse was put into operation in April.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S VISITS AND NOTICES SERVED DURING THE YEAR.

General Sanitation.	Number of Visits or Inspections.
Water Supply.	38
Drainage.	97
Fried Fish Shops	4
Tents, Vans and Sheds.	9
Bakehouses	8
Public Conveniences	61
Refuse Collection	18
Refuse Disposal	79
Rats and Mice.	9
Shops	7
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	213
Re-Visits.	27.
In Connection with New Houses.	
Drainage.	26.
Building Notices.	43.
Council House Repairs.	296.

	No. of Visits or Inspections.
Visits in Connection with Erection of Shelters.	835
Housing	
Under Public Health Acts.	
No. of Houses Inspected.	58.
Visits paid to above houses.	58.
Under Housing Acts.	
No. of Houses Inspected.	14.
Visits paid to above houses.	14.
Miscellaneous Housing Visits.	5.
War Damage Property.	355.
Infectious Diseases.	
Inquiries in Cases of I.D.	47
Visits re Disinfection	52.
Miscellaneous Infectious Disease Visits.	14.
Meat and Food Inspection.	
Inspection of Meat.	
Visits to Slaughterhouses.	84.
Visits to Shops and Stalls.	26.
Visits to other Premises.	7.
Meat Inspection.	1.
Visits to:-	
Cowsheds.	71.
Dairies and Milkshops.	45.
Food Preparing Premises.	1.
Visits in Connection with Sampling.	
Milk - Bacteriological.	1.
Miscellaneous Food Visits.	21.
Notices Served.	
No. of Informal Notices Served.	24.
No. of Informal Notices Complied with.	21.
No. of Statutory Notices Served.	2.
No. of Statutory Notices Complied with.	2.
Sanitary Inspection of the Area.	
(a) Inspections made	240.
(b) Nuisances discovered [illegible]	157.
" " (Swine only).	1.
(c) Complaints received.	107.
(d) Informal or preliminary notices sent. ...	25.
(e) Statutory notices sent	1.
(f) Nuisances abated	148.

(g) Summonses issued. ... ... nil.

(h) Convictions obtained. ... ... nil.

Shops and Offices.

Shops and Offices	...	...	...	75
Number inspected	...	...	...	30
Number of inspections	...	...	...	51

No action was taken during the year under the provisions of the Shop Act, 1934, or under the Public Health Act. 1936.

Camping Sites.

(a) Number of sites used for camping purposes during the year	...	...	...	13.
(b) Number of camping sites in respect of which licences have been issued under Section 269 of the Public Health Act.1936..			...	13.
(c) Estimated maximum number of campers resident in the area at one time during summer seasons.	...	...	...	750.

Smoke Abatement.

Observations made	...	...	...	0.
Complaints received	...	...	...	0.

Swimming Baths and Pools. As in 1939.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.	Council houses.	Other houses.
(a) Number of houses found to be infested	0	0
(b) Number of houses disinfected.	0	0

Schools.

All Schools in the area were inspected.

SECTION D. HOUSING.

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year.

(a) (i)	Inspection of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).	15
(ii)	Number of Inspections made for this purpose	20
(b) (i)	Number of Houses included under above which were inspected under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 & 1937	10.
(ii)	Number of inspections made for this purpose.	15.
(c)	Number of houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health, as to be unfit for human habitation	6.
(d)	Number of houses, exclusive of those referred to under (c) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	19.

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal Notices.

Number of defective houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action. ... ... 16.

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

(a) Proceedings under Housing Act, 1936. Nil.

4. All New Houses.

(1) Total New Houses erected during the year (Council and Private enterprise). 30.

(2) New Houses erected during the year with State Assistance under Housing Acts:

(a) By Local Authority ... ... 0.
(b) By other bodies or persons ... 0.

(3) New Houses erected during the year (without Subsidy). ... ... 30.

(4) New Houses during the year proposed to be erected under Housing Acts but not yet built ... ... None.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply.

Number of Dairies and Cowsheds inspected 66

Number of inspections. 116

Action taken may be summarised as follows:-

(a) Cowsheds improved ... ... 10.

(b) Cowsheds and Dairies reconstructed -

(c) New and improved dairies ... -

(d) New drainage ... ... -

(b) Meat and other Foods.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle (excl: cows).	Cows.	Calves	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed	Not known				
Number inspected.	18	-	3	7	372

Carcases Condemned.

	Cattle (excl: cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
ALL Diseases EXCEPT Tuberculosis:- Whole carcase condemned.	-	-	1	2	3
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	16	-	-	5	20
Percentage of the number of carcases inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis.	88.9	-	33.3	100	6.2
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY:- Whole Carcases condemned	2	-	-	-	8
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	55
Percentage of the number of carcases inspected affected with Tuberculosis.	11.1	-	-	-	16.9

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

DISEASES	Total cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox	-	-	-
Scarlet fever	28	7	-
Diphtheria	17	15	-
Enteric Fever	1	1	-
Puerperal Pyroxia	-	-	-
Pneumonia	29	4	15
Erysipelas	5	-	-
Dysentery	38	38	-
Food Poisoning.	-	-	-
Cerebro-spinal (Meningitis)	18	18	3
Measles	330	2	1
Whooping Cough	30	-	-

AGE GROUPS.

Disease	Under 1 year	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over	TOTALS
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet fever	-	1	1	1	1	13	4	2	2	3	-	-	28
Diphtheria.	-	-	-	2	-	3	1	4	6	1	-	-	17
Enteric fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Puerperal pyrexia.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	2	-	-	-	1	4	3	1	6	3	4	5	29
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	1	5
Dysentery.	-	-	1	2	2	4	1	14	7	7	-	-	38
Food Poisoning.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis.	-	-	-	-	1	2	2	1	7	5	-	-	18
Measles	4	14	10	28	28	150	39	29	24	2	2	-	330
Whooping Cough	1	1	4	4	1	12	5	-	-	2	-	-	30

Notifications of Cerebro-spinal Fever.

Case No.	Date of Notification	Sex.	Age	Parish	Result
2	21. 2. 40.	M.	24	Berkeley	Died
3.	22. 2. 40.	M.	34.	Berkeley	Recovered
4	24. 2. 40.	F.	4.	Tytherington	"
5	4. 3. 40.	M.	32.	Almondsbury	"
6	5. 3. 40.	M.	42.	Hinton	Died.
8	8. 3. 40.	M.	10.	Berkeley	Recovered
9	12. 3. 40.	F.	42.	Thornbury	"
10	1. 4. 40	F.	27.	Thornbury	"
11	11. 4. 40	F.	26.	Almondsbury	"
12	16. 4. 40	M.	35.	Thornbury	Died
13	30. 4. 40	M.	11.	Redwick & Northwick.	Recovered
14	8. 5. 40	M.	8.	Charfield	"
15	20. 5. 40	M.	8.	Berkeley	"
16	27. 5. 40	M.	39.	Tytherington	"
17	31. 5. 40	F.	28.	Thornbury	"
18	10. 6. 40	M.	30.	Thornbury	"
19	13. 6. 40	M.	41.	Almondsbury	"
20	16.12. 40	M.	19.	Charfield	"
		Non-Civilian.			
1	19. 2. 40	M.	19.	Thornbury	Not known
7	7. 3. 40	M.	19.	Thornbury	Not known

Diphtheria Immunisation.

(a) Number of pre-school children immunised ... ... 47.

(b) Number of school children immunised. 31.

Diphtheria prophylactic used ...
A.P.T. and T.A.F. of Messrs. Burroughs, Wellcome's manufacture.

Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1940.

Age periods	New Cases				Deaths.			
	Respiratory M.	Respiratory F.	Non-Respiratory M.	Non-Respiratory F.	Respiratory M.	Respiratory F.	Non-Respiratory M.	Non-Respiratory F.
0.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1.	-	1	-	-	-	1	3	-
5.	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
15.	2	4	-	-	-	1	-	1
25.	3	5	-	-	2	1	-	-
35.	2	1	-	-	-	2	-	-
45.	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-
55.	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
65 and upwards	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Totals.	7.	12.	3.	3.	6.	7.	3.	1.